

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD ■ FOUR CORNERS WATER AND SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes ■ November 29, 2012**  
**Town Council Chambers**

Members Present: Rawn (chair), Paulhus, Reich, Hart,

Staff Present: Painter, Hultgren

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by chair Rawn. Because of a lack of quorum, no actions were taken.

Public Comment

- Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed disappointment that there wasn't more active participation from all members of the Committee and expressed concern that the Committee's work has expanded beyond the charge identified by the Town Council, specifically with expanding water supply to areas of town other than Four Corners. She urged the Committee to go back to the original charge and focus on the needs of the Four Corners area and take into account how those needs may have decreased based on projected development in other areas.
- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reiterated Ms. Wassmundt's comments regarding the Committee's charge and expressed concern that the Town has shifted its focus away from dealing with the contamination at Four Corners due to the distraction of UConn's desire for more water, noting that the Town does not need water.
- David Freudmann, 22 Eastwood Road, disclosed his membership on the Town Council and Finance Committee and indicated that he was speaking only as a resident of the town. Mr. Freudmann reiterated the Committee's original charge to address the contamination issues at Four Corners and the subsequent expansion of the charge to bring water to Four Corners, which he supported before he fully understood the high cost associated with the water project and the fairly small number of properties that would benefit. He also suggested that the Town should be more strategic with regard to UConn's need to develop a water supply since the Town does not have an immediate need for water.

UConn Water Supply EIE

Meg Reich provided an overview of her thoughts on the proposed EIE, noting in particular the lack of a state process to address coordination of water supply and wastewater disposal planning on a regional basis and the unintended consequences that can result from failure to coordinate these issues. Rawn echoed the need for a more comprehensive approach to planning based on the new technology park and the unknown secondary impacts that Mansfield and surrounding communities will have to address as a result of that project.

Through discussion, the members present identified the following comments as a basis for discussion with the Committee at the regular meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>. As the deadline to provide comments to the Town Council is December 4<sup>th</sup>, comments from the Committee may not be incorporated into the Town's comments. Hart indicated that the ability of staff to include the Committee's comments in the package provided to the Council will depend on when they are received on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

- **Governance.** The discussion in the EIE regarding governance should be more direct, robust and detailed on how to address future governance of the water supply system.
- **Relationship between Water Supply and Wastewater Discharge.** The EIE needs to include more discussion regarding the balance between water coming into the system and leaving the system,

particularly with regard to potential environmental impacts.

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity.** The EIE needs to address how the revised statement of need impacts capacity at the wastewater treatment plant.
- **Secondary Impacts.** The EIE should better address the secondary impacts of the proposed technology park on Mansfield and surrounding communities as the tech park is identified as one of the primary needs for additional water.
- **Pedestrian Bridge over Willimantic River.** Additional information is needed on the proposed pedestrian bridge at Jones Crossing Road, including information on where the statements of support from Mansfield and Coventry came from and whether the rights-of-way on both sides of the proposed bridge still exist.
- **Statement of Need.** The executive summary and body of the report need to do a better job of explaining how the scope in terms of water needs was changed through the process. It was suggested that Jason Coite's presentation was effective in explaining this change and could be used as a model.
- **Preferred Alternative.** Members discussed whether the Committee should identify a preferred alternative or preferences for various pipeline routes within each alternative. No decisions on these issues were reached.
- **Editing.** There are many inconsistencies between the main body of the report and the executive summary that need to be corrected. Additionally, the executive summary should be expanded to clarify the Town's capacity as it relates to land use planning and the HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant.

#### Future Meetings

- **Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items.** Painter noted that the next regular meeting of the Committee is December 4, 2012. Rawn suggested that the EIE be the only item of business for that meeting.
- **2013 Proposed Meeting Schedule.** Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken on the revised schedule for 2013. Painter noted that it will be added to the agenda for the December 4, 2012 meeting.

#### Adjournment

Rawn adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development